

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 16, in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A character processing apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, comprising:

a receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

a code allocating section to allocate a code to the requested character information;

a control section to control creation of character information, based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment; and

a setting section to set created character information with respect to the allocated code, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A character processing system, comprising:
a plurality of input terminal equipments; and
a character processing apparatus coupled to the input terminal equipments via a network,
each of said input terminal equipments comprising a requesting section requesting character information, which relates to an external character, with respect to the character processing apparatus,
with said character processing apparatus comprising:
an allocating section allocating a code to the character information requested by the requesting section;
a first notifying section notifying the code to the input terminal equipments;
a creating section creating character information based on the requested character information; and
a second notifying section notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipments, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipments when the code is allocated by said allocating section.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipments after said creating section creates the created character information.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal equipments.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes a plurality of input terminal equipments, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising:

receiving by the character processing apparatus, a request for character information which relates to an external character, from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

controlling, by the character processing apparatus, creation of character information, based on the character information, in the creating terminal equipment; and

setting created character information with respect to the allocated code by the character processing apparatus, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes a plurality of input terminal equipments, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising:

requesting character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary

one of the input terminal equipments with respect to the character processing apparatus;

allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

notifying the code to the input terminal equipments by the character processing apparatus;

creating character information, based on the requested character information, by the character information creating terminal equipment; and

notifying the created character information to the arbitrary input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

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13. (CANCELED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A character processing method adapted to a character processing system which includes a plurality of input terminal equipments, a character processing apparatus, and a character information creating terminal equipment, which are coupled via a network, comprising:

requesting character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments with respect to a character processing apparatus;

allocating a code to the requested character information by the character processing apparatus;

creating character information, based on the requested character information, by the character information creating terminal equipment; and

notifying the created character information to the arbitrary input terminal equipment by the character processing apparatus, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to a plurality of input terminal equipments and a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, to carry out a plurality steps, comprising:

receiving a request for character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the requested character information;

controlling creation of character information, based on the requested character information, in the character information creating terminal equipment; and

setting created character information with respect to the allocated code, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to a plurality of input terminal equipments via a network, to carry out a plurality of operations, comprising:

receiving character information which relates to an external character and is requested from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the requested character information;

notifying the code to the input terminal equipments;

creating character information based on the requested character information; and

notifying the created character information to the arbitrary input terminal equipment, so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.

19. (CANCELED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer, forming a character processing apparatus which is coupled to a plurality of input terminal equipments via a network, to carry out a plurality of steps, comprising:

receiving character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments;

allocating a code to the received character information;

creating character information based on the received character information; and

notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipments.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the character processing apparatus includes a character information creating terminal equipment including said creating section.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in the input terminal equipments.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said character processing apparatus further comprises:

an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in the input terminal equipments.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The character processing method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

setting by the character processing apparatus an external character environment to be used in the input terminal equipments.
